IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 1-12.

Please ADD new claims 13-16 in accordance with the following:

13. (NEW) A RAID apparatus comprising:

a plurality of physical disk units storing a plurality of copies of each of logical volumes; and

a disk controller accessing any of the physical disk units which stores a designated logical volume to thereby access said designated logical volume,

said disk controller including:

a plurality of device adapter for accessing said physical disk unit in accordance with a request, said plurality of device adapter are connected to each physical disk unit;

a memory storing the number of operations requested to each physical disk unit and statuses of said connected device adapters, for each physical disk unit; and

control means for comparing numbers of operations corresponding to a plurality of physical disk units which store said designated logical volume with each other, selecting the single physical disk unit from the disk units storing the designated logical volume which has a minimum number of operations based on the comparison, judging whether or not said device adapter connected to said selected single minimum waiting physical disk is normal from referring said statues of said connected device adapters, and outputting a request to said determined device adapter.

14. (NEW) The RAID apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said memory comprising:

a logical volume structure table storing statuses and said plurality of physical disk units of each logical volume; and

a disk management table storing the number of operations and said statuses of said connected device adapters of each physical disk unit.

15. (NEW) An access control method for a RAID apparatus comprising a plurality of physical disk units storing a plurality of copies of each of logical volumes, and a disk controller accessing any physical disk unit which stores a designated logical volume to thereby access said designated logical volume, said method comprising:

determining a plurality of physical disk units which store a designated logical volume;